

# UNTITLED

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**Ry Rocklen**  
***Believe You Me***  
**September 7<sup>th</sup> – October 16<sup>th</sup> 2011**

UNTITLED is bedazzled to present Ry Rocklen's first exhibition at the gallery.

In *Believe You Me*, the point of entry is marked by a wooden bench, the visitors' first port of call. Beyond this, the gallery floor is covered with variously sized paintings used to frame the artist's sculptures, tiles rendered by manipulating the work of a multitude of collaborators, friends and strangers.

The involvement of many is first acknowledged through *Soft Cover A to Z*, a chrome-plated found phone book, and later glorified by *Second to None*, a construction made of trophies that someone once won, then discarded. But the treasure in these objects is not lost on the artist.

For this exhibition Rocklen continues to engage in his unique manipulation of the found object, elevating the most mundane knick knacks to pure sculptural poetry. A kitsch umbrella-shaped umbrella stand gets showered with blue drops – a plethora of blue earrings patiently collected from thrift stores and pierced into the metal. The movement of a patterned towel casually thrown over a metal stand is frozen by a layer of glass tiles and an instantaneous action is turned into many hours of painstakingly meticulous effort.

Amid this visual onslaught, the head of a woman placidly lies on a stars-and-stripes-decorated pillow – *Liberta* is the queen of this show. She rests her head on a ubiquitous symbol of national pride, facing the entrance of the gallery, where an oversized American flag is draped, its edge kissing the ground.

Ry Rocklen was born in 1978 in Los Angeles, where he lives and works. His recent solo exhibitions include *ZZZ* at the Visual Arts Center, The University of Texas at Austin, TX (2010), *House of Return* at Parker Jones, Los Angeles, CA (2009), *Good Grief* at Bernier/Eliades, Athens, Greece (2009) and *Time After Time* at Baronian Francey, Brussels, Belgium (2009). His work has been included in group exhibitions in institutions that include the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, PS1 in New York and the Whitney Museum (for the 2008 Whitney Biennial) in New York.